

FARM-FIELD AND GARDEN

LIME—FARM MANURES.

When Lime May Be Advantageously Applied—Manning Grass Lands.

Lime may be applied advantageously on grass land in the fall, or on wheat land after it is plowed and before it is fully tilled. If the land is already full of vegetable matter, it is probable that the lime will do great good. Forty bushels was considered a fair dressing in former years, but now 10 to 20 bushels per acre is considered the most economical application. Bay stone or unslaked lime, placed in small piles of about five bushels each at regular intervals over the field, and covered slightly with earth, allowing the rain and the moisture which rises from below to slake it. If it is applied to the wheat land, and there is not enough moisture, then water may be drawn and poured upon the heaps. Immediately after this is done, cover lightly with earth, so that the air may not so easily get to the lime. Spread broadcast from a sled or stone boat if no convenient machine is at hand, advises Country Gentleman, authority also for the following:

A good practice is to manure during the winter on grass land intended for corn the following spring. Five to ten tons of good manure evenly spread over the ground would be the most economical dressing. Usually farm manures are spread poorly and too thickly. The corn to be followed with oats, without any fertilizers or manures. Oat stubbles to be plowed and treated to the same quantity of manure as the corn ground before harrowing. It is usually economy to add some mineral matter in the shape of commercial fertilizers. It is seldom necessary to add nitrogen. Color and growth of the plant should indicate very accurately whether there is a deficiency of nitrogen or not in the soil.

Professor Constock says that there is no evidence that manuring grass lands tends to multiply grasshoppers. Their eggs are so thoroughly protected that they seldom fail to hatch, but if the weather is cold and rainy when the grasshoppers are young vast numbers of them are destroyed. A short rotation is likely to prevent them from multiplying. It may be just possible that heavy manuring retards the hatching of the eggs, and so the young grasshoppers appear late in the season, when it is likely to be drier and warmer, than at an earlier period.

The lime and manure should be put on simultaneously—that is, if lime is found to be very beneficial a light dressing might be applied with every dressing of manure. Only by experimenting can it be determined how often liming will be profitable. The chances are that ten bushels per acre, applied with about an equal number of loads of manure every other year, would produce very satisfactory results, or the liming might be only once in the course—that is, every four or five years. Lime, strictly speaking, is not a manure. It is almost always beneficial on both clay and sandy lands, but whether the benefit will equal the cost can only be determined by trial. It usually acts very energetically on heavy lands full of vegetable matter, making them more friable and setting free large quantities of plant food, which before the application were dormant.

Crimson Clover.

Thousands of acres in the middle and southern states are being seeded to crimson clover, which in Delaware is exerting as much excitement as alfalfa has raised in the central west, while experiments with crimson clover are being made in New England and also in the central and western states. A Delaware farmer tells in The New England Homestead that crimson clover is one of the best crops to use in connection with orcharding, trucking or berry growing. It fills the rotation exactly. For instance, plant peas in the spring and follow with tomatoes for the canners as soon as the peas are off. When you lay tomatoes by, seed with crimson clover. Thus the ground is occupied with some crop all the time, and in the following May, if soil and season have been favorable, you will have a crop of clover two or three feet high to cut for hay or ensilage, and a good crop of stubble and roots to turn under to enrich the soil. Corn, potatoes or any other crop may follow. This is only one instance. Many orchards are seeded with the clover, either to plow under as a fertilizer or to be cut for hay.

Seed Wheat.

We know now for a certainty that a great deal of the wheat rust is brought on our farms through the seed, and the spores of the rust are held over from year to year in the seed. Seed that is taken from the field where the rust has been prevalent should always be subject to the hot water test. The seed we purchase from seedmen should also be treated in this way, for we know not how many rust spores may be in the seed to begin growing when the favorable conditions are given. The hot water test is the only sure way of killing rust. If done properly, there is no danger of injuring the vitality of the seeds, while all the spores of disease will be thoroughly destroyed, writes an American Cultivator correspondent.

Care of Hop Yards.

As soon as the hop harvest is over, growers ought to set their yards in order by gathering the loose vines and burning them on some adjoining plowed field. If burned in the yards, there is danger of injuring the roots by the heat. The poles should also be stored for next year's use.

The hop roots require care and protection in the fall. Many growers protect by a compost from the barnyard or stable which prevents freezing when there is but little snow to cover them.

THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

His Lot as Compared With Farmers in the Northwest.

Among the farmers of the United States the New England farmer is peculiarly fortunate in his surroundings, according to the comparisons made by a writer in the New England Homestead, who appears to have had experience on farms both east and west. He says the New England farmer's markets for small amounts of produce are only three to ten miles away in the factory villages, or if he has a larger amount that cannot readily be marketed in factory villages, he can place his produce in either of several cities by paying for 100 miles of cheap transportation. His western brother must pay for at least 1,000 miles of transportation, which often costs more than one-half the price of his crop after the market is reached.

The New England farmer takes something to market nearly every week in the year, and if the produce is in a salable condition he can always expect some return, while his western brother has to wait six months at a time before he can hope to realize on his main crop, and if he tries to trade some small produce like butter and eggs for the necessities to support his family in the meantime, he is apt to be told by the general supply merchant that "the market is overstocked already." There is then no choice for him but to go in debt for his supplies until after the next harvest. These must be paid for out of his main crop when it comes to market. At that time the supply merchant will begin to press for payment, and that will force him to sell at a price leaving him at the mercy of the supply merchant for another year. Meanwhile the New England farmer has paid his way all summer, and if in the fall he has any crop to sell, whatever that brings him may be reckoned as the profits of the season.

When the western farmer is about to begin going in debt for winter fuel and other supplies, the New England farmer betakes himself to his wood lot, where he can cut a year's supply of fuel at his leisure. If repairs are needed on buildings or fences, he can provide the material at little above cost of his own labor, or if he needs finer lumber than his own wood lot and the nearest sawmill can supply he can take a load of chestnut posts to the nearest lumber yard and exchange for what he needs.

All this time, with his cellar well stocked with salted meats, fruits and vegetables, and his poultry yards full of fowls, he suffers no anxiety on account of a bill at the supply merchant's. While the western farmer and his family are shivering over a cow manure fire in a sod shanty of two rooms, and the cattle are eating wheat straw and losing ears and tail in the blizzard, the New England farmer can read his paper by a wood fire in his ten-room frame house, in the happy consciousness that his cattle are eating good hay in a warm stable.

When to Cut Corn Fodder.

A Country Gentleman correspondent writes:

The best time to cut the corn is when the ears are glazed and the husks turning white. Cut at this time not only is the fodder at its best, but there will be no shrinkage of corn and the ears will be well filled out with plump, heavy grain. Quite late in the season, when the weather is cool and there is danger of frost, late corn may be cut up green and will cure out without danger of shrinkage or of the fodder souring.

As a rule, I prefer large shocks, 120 to 144 hills to the shock, as less of the fodder will be exposed to the weather and a large shock cures out almost as soon as a small one. When the field is to be put in wheat, I prefer to carry 20 rows on each side of the shock row and make the shocks 3 by 40 hills, which makes them as close as they can stand in the row. It will cost 1 cent to 1½ more per shock, but is a great convenience in sowing the wheat, and enables you to get the corn and fodder off with very little tramping of the wheat.

Varieties of Corn.

J. L. Hills, in the Vermont station bulletin, gives tabulated data of the characteristics and composition of 13 varieties of corn. The largest yield of dry matter was made by Virginia Horse Tooth, Learning and Egyptian Sweet. The dry matter of the Egyptian Sweet corn had a larger nutritive value, pound for pound, than that produced from any other variety.

News and Notes.

Spanish pink is a new insecticide said to destroy potato bugs, cabbage worms and caterpillars more readily than paris green and to be less dangerous to handle.

The so-called sled cutter, or harvester, is becoming quite popular and has probably done more than any other one implement to facilitate the handling of corn and to reduce the cost of harvesting it.

Provident farmers have made provision for supplementing the short hay crop by sowing turnips, fodder corn and other crops on all available land.

The west is shipping many horses to Germany and France, presumably for food purposes.

All reports indicate a big corn crop for 1895.

Attention is again called to the national irrigation congress at Albuquerque, N. M., beginning Sept. 16.

Missouri ranks first in mules, having in the last census year 251,714; the next being Texas, with 227,432, and the third Tennessee, with 209,639.

A new fact bearing on the disease of the horse is the alleged effect on the oats market. According to the dealers, the demand for oats is considerably less than it was a year ago.

Crimson clover will succeed anywhere that red clover and wheat do, rainfall, of course, being sufficient to give it a start.

The Bay State fair, at Worcester the first week in September, promises to be of unusual interest.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

BEWITCHING WEDDING GOWNS FOR THE BRIDES OF AUTUMN.

Traveling Dresses, Too, in a Variety and Style to Suit the Most Exact—Full Novelties Slowly Appearing—Standard Woolen Dress Goods Still Popular.

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Now that summer is over the prospective September and October brides are preparing their wedding gowns. I suppose no gown that a woman ever has from her christening robe to her shroud is so important. Many wedding dresses are being brought from Paris with the rest of the wedding outfit, and many more quite as pretty ones are being made here. I was the favored one to see a very handsome wedding dress and the dresses that the

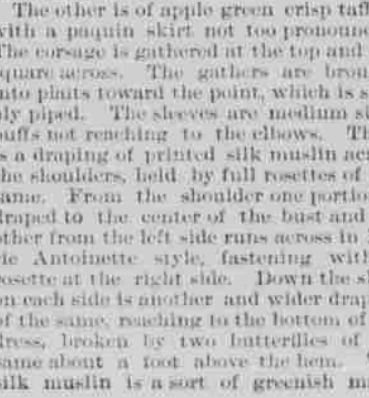


WEDDING GOWN AND LITTLE BRIDESMAID'S DRESS.

three bridesmaids will wear the 25th of September at a very swell wedding. The dress is of the new thick corded faille in ivory white. The skirt has a long train and has a couple of wrinkles across the front breadth. All around the bottom are two full ruffles made of narrow white Valenciennes lace. The corsage is a plain French shape, with crepe lace laid in narrow plaits from the shoulders to the waist. There is a belt made of twisted white satin ribbon, with a bow of short loops. A small corsage bouquet of orange buds and foliage finishes it beautifully. The sleeves are loose gowns with ample plaits, one of which reaches up to the shoulder. The dog collar was surmounted with a ruche, and others border the sleeves at the wrists. The veil is but one double width of tulle, hemmed one inch wide at the bottom. There is a full wreath in form of a coronet of orange leaves and buds, more of the green than the white. A tiny spray at the collar completes the costume. Bouquets of blue roses in a loose bunch will be the best style. Set bouquets are entirely out. The dress for the little sister of the bride who will be the chief bridesmaid, is of lavender blue tulle, with three rows of satin milliner's folds around the bottom in exactly the same shade. The crinoline and bustle are of satin. The waist is baby's style of ivory-white tulle, with a mauve belt. It is cut square across the neck and abridged in three rows. The sleeves are full puffed to the elbow, where they are finished off with a ruche. There is a sleeveless Eton shaped back made of the tulle, and this is hand embroidered with cream cross silk. Blue silk stockings to match and a blue ribbon in the hair finish off this dainty little costume.

For the two other bridesmaids are two very pretty dresses, both designed so that they can be worn afterward for evening and full dress occasions. One is of wild rose pink faille, the skirt gathered to a belt. The low corsage is cut to a point and gathered and finished off with a narrow belt of pink moire. There are very short sleeves made in a small puff. All around the neck is a ten inch fall of lace. Bunches of violets are set on the left shoulder and a large spray of violets down the left side nearly to the bottom. A close bunch of violets for the hand and a small wreath of the same for the hair complete this dainty costume.

The other is of apple green crisp tulle with a piquant skirt not too pronounced. The corsage is gathered at the top and cut square across. The gathers are brought into plaits toward the point, which is simply piped. The sleeves are medium sized puffs not reaching to the elbows. There is a draping of printed silk muslin across the shoulders, held by full rosettes of the same. From the shoulder one portion is draped to the center of the bust and another from the left side runs across in Marie Antoinette style, fastening with a rosette at the right side. Down the skirt on each side is another and wider draping of the same, reaching to the bottom of the dress, broken by two interludes of the same about a foot above the hem. The silk muslin is a sort of greenish maize



FOR BRIDESMAIDS' OR EVENING DRESSES.

with dull red and green flowers. It is a very effective gown and lights up beautifully. Long cream mousquetaire gloves are to be worn with this and pale lemon dressed kids with the pink.

In modish weddings the bride wears white kid or satin slippers or slippers made of the dress material. This can easily be done. These slippers should be very plain. White silk or fine openwork lace thread stockings should be worn and two or at most three button white glazed kid gloves. Prayer books are not carried unless the bride be Episcopal or Catholic. Bouquets stuffs that are to be worn later. These will speak for themselves and cannot fail to win instant popularity. They look so warm and cozy.

For a handsome gown to wear at the hotels while traveling there is a quaint and very pretty dress of mendarine blue poplin. The skirt is closely fitted at the hips. The sleeves are short, but full puffed with full plaits at the elbow. The waist is fitted at the shoulder seam and gathered in loose folds at the back. A ribbon of the same shade encircles the waist, tying in an upright bow. The hose ends hang nearly to the bottom of the skirt. There is a narrow inset vest of white satin embroidered with gold braid and edged by ruffles of blue chiffon. A stock collar fin-

ishes this pretty gown, and a hat of pale blue quilled silk muslin with bows of ribbon and bunches of myosotis adds to its effectiveness. If the pretty wearer can only keep her garter gloves on to hide the suspicious nervousness of her ring, she may pass for a lady wedded at least five years.

The retail stores are not showing much that is new yet except a few small matters. Among them I notice some corded wash silks which are very pretty indeed. There is much tulle in crisp quality and delicate colors, mostly fancy stripes. There are figured chins with black grounds, very suitable for house gowns. The heavy white habutai silks are extremely nice for tea gowns, tea jackets and garments of that sort. There is a new cannelé tulle in lovely champagne colors and a great variety of new striped silks and satins and silks with satin stripes. There are many charmingly broad and jacquard tulle. Satin duchess is also shown in nearly every color. There is also a large line of heavy black grosgrain with swivel weave figures. Grosgrain, plain and figured, will be greatly liked, but it is probable that the corded faille will be the favorite heavy silk.

It is not always the newest goods that prove the most popular, for I find that the standard qualities of woolen dress goods are being prepared for fall gowns quite as much as the newer fancies. Fine black and blue French and English serges are among the goods used lavishly by the large dressmaking houses. English mohair, plain and swivelled, is seen in many elegant suits. English corduroys and velvets are being made for late fall walking suits and bicycle costumes. Navy blue, smoke, lead and brown storm chevrons are among the standard goods which vary but slightly from those heretofore seen, and they are among the best values offered. Storm serges and cravatated serges are also shown in new colors, among them a very deep rich prune with a crimson cast in it. There is also a line of camellian mohair with almost every color represented. Black silk and wool gloria 45 inches wide is presented in every imaginable color. All these are smooth face fabrics. Besides them the broadcloths with a rich satiny surface and the "bushel" broadcloth are all seen. The cloth dresses will be among the handiwork of the season's output. Some will be tailor finished, some braided richly, and some will have bands of astrakhan or Persian lamb cloth or fur laid on. The covert clothes show warmer colorings and richer effects than ever before, as this material has generally been solely for those with tastes for refined but modest effects.

For a traveling dress for a bride there is a neat suit of dark gray chevrot with russet stripes, the skirt plain and gored. The inner waist is perfectly plain, buttoned diagonally across. The jacket is short, single breasted and with narrow revers and collar. The back of the jacket is cut very flaring, and the whole is tailor finished. A neat linen collar and cuffs are worn with it. If the journey is liable to be a very dusty one a gray tulle silk dust cloak can be worn over it. I should have mentioned that the puffs to the sleeves are cut crosswise, so that the stripes run around.

If that equal costume does not quite suit, there is another just as pretty, though in an entirely different style. This is shepherd's check, in light drab and white, with fine lines of mixed colors faintly visible through it. The skirt has a bias fold around the bottom piped with white on the upper edge. The waist is a Russian blouse, with a fold of black lace insertion laid down the center, edged with quilted silk. A ruche of this finishes the neck. There is a collar, square sailor shape across the shoulders, ending in front in long tabs fastened under the blue belt, which is made of the plaid. The sleeves are drooping for of button, with neat upturned cuffs piped with white. This is certainly a looser and more comfortable gown than the other, and, with a dust cloak, all that is necessary.

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EARLY FALL GOWNS.

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MATE LEROY.

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Dated at Cornwall this 13th day of August, A. D. 1895.

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